

Findings of the FAO Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security 2007, Rome

The International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security was held in connection with the 33rd Session of the Committee on Food Security in FAO, Rome. The objective of the meeting was to shed light on the contribution of organic agriculture to food security through the analysis of existing information in different agro-ecological areas of the world. The meeting identified organic agriculture's potential and limits in addressing the food security challenge, including conditions required for its success.

The meeting was open to civil society institutions in order to enhance the public-private dialogue on organic agriculture. Some 350 participants from more than 80 countries attended, including representatives from 66 FAO member countries, three UN agencies, five inter-governmental institutions, 15 international NGOs, 30 national NGOs, 24 research institutions, 31 universities, eight private companies and nine farmer associations.

The meeting agreed on the following conclusions, as summarized by the Chair:

- **Organic agriculture can contribute to food security but its potential to do so depend greatly on political will.**
- **New challenges such as climate change can be mitigated by organic agriculture through such measures as enhanced soil carbon sequestration. Organic agriculture also offers practical climate adaptation options.**
- **Water security is enhanced by organic agriculture, in terms of drinking water quality, decreased irrigation needs in organic soils and better yields in water-stressed climate variability.**
- **Agrobiodiversity is protected and sustainably used by organic agriculture.**
- **Nutritional adequacy is enhanced by the more diverse and micronutrient rich organic foods.**
- **Rural development is achieved by organic agriculture through generating income and employment in areas where people have no alternative other than using their labour, local resources and indigenous knowledge.**
- **An international network for organic research and proper extension is crucial for the further development of organic agriculture and more public resources should be devoted to agro-ecological science.**
- **Food security is tightly linked to agricultural policies that determine export and import choice. Organic agriculture reconciles economic objectives with environmental and social objectives but its further development requires securing a level playing field through appropriate policy interventions.**

- **Food security is not only a concern of developing countries as fossil fuel crisis, climate change and other vulnerabilities in the food chain may threaten also food secure areas**

For the full report click on the link

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/paia/organicag/ofs/OFSreport.pdf>